PATENT Ser. No. 09/912,460 Atty. Docket No.: 77661/55 Tatsuya Kawahara et al.

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action of October 30, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the Amendment and the following comments.

Claims 1-3, 6-9, 11 and 12 are currently pending in the instant application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4-7.

Claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4. Claims 2-9 are dependent from claim 1. In addition, new claim 11 has been drafted to incorporate the combined subject matters of claims 1 and 5. By virtue of the cancellation of claims 4 and 5, claim 6 has been made dependent from claim 1. In addition, new claim 12 has been drafted to be drawn to the subject matter of claim 6, and is dependent on new independent claim 11.

In view of the above, all of the pending claims now contain subject matter indicated by the Examiner as being allowable.

PATENT

Ser. No. 09/912,460

Atty. Docket No.: 77661/55

Tatsuya Kawahara et al.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration, withdrawal of all grounds of rejection and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are solicited.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 11-0600. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4296 to discuss any matter regarding this application.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: 01-07-04

Registration No. 40,031

KENYON & KENYON 1500 K Street, N.W., Suite 700 Washington, DC 20005

Tel: (202) 220-4200 Fax: (202) 220-4201

DC01 476424v1